

FACT SHEET



EPA
Region 7

Tri-State Mining District
Cherokee County Superfund Site
Baxter Springs, Kansas

August 2002

Environmental Work Continues in Baxter Springs

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 continues to oversee work at the Tri-State Mining District site in Baxter Springs, Kansas. The first phase of the residential cleanup work in Baxter Springs started in 2000 and was completed in 2001. The rural mining wastes cleanup, west of town, started early this year and will continue into 2003.

The second and final phase of the residential work will begin this month. This final phase includes contacting residential property owners to get permission to sample and/or clean their property. The residential sampling and cleanup work will be complete by late this year or early 2003.

BACKGROUND

The Tri-State Mining District is an inactive lead and zinc mining area that includes the Cherokee County Superfund site in Kansas. The Cherokee County site is listed on EPA's National Priorities List (NPL). The NPL is a list of the most serious hazardous waste sites in the country. These sites have been identified

for remedial action under the Superfund program.

EPA signed a Record of Decision or ROD for the Baxter Springs subsite in August 1997. The ROD formally selected a cleanup plan. The cleanup plan addresses residential yard soils in Baxter Springs and surface mining wastes in former mining areas west of town.

The ROD called for stabilizing and re-vegetating the mining wastes, removing wastes from drainages, and excavating and disposing of mining impacted residential soils. A health education program and institutional controls, such as local zoning or building ordinances for land use controls, were also put in place or planned.

SITE UPDATE

The responsible parties are completing the work in Baxter Springs under EPA's and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment's oversight. The work includes cleaning up the surface mining wastes and the mining impacted residential yard soils. The cleanup work west of town is ongoing and the last phase of the residential yard cleanup work

is starting soon. All of the work is anticipated to be done in late 2003.

NEXT STEPS

The responsible parties' representatives will begin notifying the residential property owners in Baxter Springs to get permission to sample and/or clean their property. Residential properties in rural mined areas may also be sampled if they were not included in the previous residential sampling effort. Follow-up work will be conducted for individuals who completed access agreements during the first phase, but were not included in the earlier work.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Baxter Springs Residential Yard Sampling and Cleanup

You can visit or phone the local site field office if you have questions about the residential yard sampling and cleanup. The field office is a fenced trailer area located east of the intersection of Route 166 and 5th Street on the east side of the O'Brien cement plant. The phone number 620-856-2047.

Cherokee County, Kansas Superfund Site

The Cherokee County, Kansas Superfund site Administrative Record is available for public review. The Administrative Record contains relevant site information concerning the Baxter Springs subsite and is available during normal business hours at:

Johnston Public Library,
210 West 10th
Baxter Springs, Kansas

EPA Region 7
Superfund Records Center,
901 N. 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas.

If you have questions about this fact sheet, or the site, please contact:

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